

suddenly and *violently* revolutionized, as a man who would cut down his apple trees because they did not bear fruit the second or third year, but with patience and contentment let us plant and cultivate the good seed of the kingdom, and the harvest time will come when the growing *Sun* of righteousness shall have fully ripened the grain.

Many of us are too anxious to pull up tares, or like James and John, on one occasion we want to call down fire to consume somebody.

"Let *patience* have her perfect work." "For if we hope for that which we see not, then do we in *patience* wait for it."

To be an evolutionist and covered out of sight means not to be *dead*. Every seed cast into the soil is a teacher of evolution. It silently says to us, watch me as I come forth, and learn a lesson of God.

Patience is not sleeping, she is hoeing in the garden, training the flowers, caring for the household.

Waiting is not idleness. It is cultivating the corn and the cane thro all the long summer days.

Watching is not sitting with folded hands. It's keeping up fences, and cleaning fence rows, preparing the threshing floor, the flail, the windmill and the garner, and sharpening the sickle while the golden sunbeams are maturing and ripening the field of wheat. "Be ye ready," means not only that each individual shall be ready, but that all things pertaining to the harvest time be ready. Therefore let us who are looking for the harvest of the world be most earnestly engaged in preparing the world for that glorious time.

LOVE FOR OFFICE

C. H. WETHERBE

There is a very large class of people whose love for an office of some kind is very keen and persistent. If they cannot have some office which they covet, then they do not want to do anything for the cause with which the office is identified. Even genuine Christians are troubled at times with a strong hankering for some office in the church to which they belong. And it is astonishing to see the displays of temper which some of them will exhibit when they fail to get a desired office. A short time ago, while visiting a place in an adjoining state, where there is a Baptist church, I was told that one of the members, a man who has no children, but whose wife is living, made his will a few years ago, bequeathing his property valued at several thousand dollars to the church to be available after the death of both himself and wife. Sometime after making this will the church had occasion to elect several deacons and this man expressed a desire to be elected to that office; but when the election was over it was seen

that this man was not one of the elect. This failure was so grievous to the man that he soon changed his will leaving his dear church out of its provisions! It seems that his benevolent intentions towards his church became suddenly nullified by his failure to secure a coveted office therein. His love for office was greater than his love for his church. What big babies some Christians are!

THE INSPIRATION OF DISCOURAGEMENTS

JACOB C. CASSEL

This caption may sound contradictory or paradoxical yet it is true.

There is no heroism in flowing with the tide of success or prosperity. All true heroes are developed by adverse or discouraging circumstances, and they draw their inspiration for noble deeds from the discouragements that surround them.

The most conspicuous character of history that rose superior to discouragements is of course Jesus the Christ. Very early in his earthly ministry he foresaw the partial failure of his plan of redemption, intimating that but comparatively few would accept him as their Savior, but notwithstanding that he pursued his course even to the sacrifice of his life in ignominy and shame. Humanly speaking where are there more discouraging scenes than Christ in the Garden, or before Pilate, or upon the Cross? It was the people's need as expressed in their persecution that inspired, or impelled Christ to die for them; in other words, it was the inspiration of discouraging circumstances. It was in the darkest hour of the civil war in this country that Abraham Lincoln was moved to issue one of the most imperious edicts in the annals of history. When he saw the bickerings of politicians, the jealousies of officers, the aimlessness of the war, when the nation (as a whole) was in the throes of death he was moved by the very discouraging aspect of affairs to issue that remarkable Emancipation Proclamation without the direction or consent of the legislative bodies of the country. It was this act that made Lincoln the hero of the nineteenth century.

It was the rottenness and corruption of the Papacy that made Luther the hero that he was. It was the need of the world that impelled him to defy the power of Satan himself: It was the very discouraging aspect of the religious world that inspired him to effect a reformation.

What is true of the few characters named is true of every prophet, patriarch and patriot of history from the days of Noah down to the present day. Men who have succeeded in the flood-tide of success are not the men that shine in history. Study the lives of Noah, of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph,

Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Paul, Peter, John and many others, and in later history as missionaries such men as Judson, Williams, Morrison, Duff, Paton, all of these and many more are heroes that shine in history because they were inspired to noble deeds by the very discouraging aspect of affairs that confronted them. There can be no victory without an adversary, or without adversity. The question is frequently asked, why did God permit sin, or satan to come into the world, to develop heroes? "He that overcometh to him will I grant to sit with me in my throne" are the words of Christ in Rev. 3:21, and they tell the whole tale of sin. It is said of Alexander the Great that he cried because there were no more enemies to fight after he had conquered the world; the Christian will never have to cry for want of an enemy; he has an enduring opportunity to become famous because of the discouraging circumstances that surround him on every side.

The above thoughts applied to us of the Brethren church there is larger opportunity for some to become heroes for God.

Surely our College affairs have been discouraging enough for years to afford noble opportunities for some one or more of our brethren to become famous; it is really surprising that some one has not seized the opportunity before now. Some few have displayed a noble heroism in saving the institution to the church, but we need some with higher aspirations to make it a success by securing legacies, bequests and endowments for its development and maintenance.

The same is true of the Publishing House. It has been floundering in a sea of uncertainty for years and is not securely anchored yet. Ten thousand dollars donated by some one for the development of the necessary literature for the church would bring lasting fame to the giver in this world, and a rich reward in the world to come.

The same is true of the foreign mission cause; that is discouraging enough yet to inspire heroic effort on the part of some. Who will be the hero of that cause? Are our members all commonplace mediocrities that fail with failure and succeed where success is assured? Have we not some that will rise superior to discouragement, and to selfishness, and thus become patriots for God? Who will dare to sell a farm or a mortgage, or bonds and invest the money for God in one of our suffering institutions.

The editorial in EVANGELIST No. 7 is strong and to the point. If the Brethren church is ever to be anything more than she is today there must be self-denial, self-sacrifice, and heroic consecration for the development of her institutions